

## AUGUST, 1902.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on the 12th of August at the Museum. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Havelock, presided. There was a large attendance of members.

## New Members.

Mr. W. M. Hardy and Mr. W. A. Thorpe were elected members of the society.

## Queensland Flora.

A letter was received from the Under-Secretary for Queensland, acknowledging receipt of a letter from this society, forwarding a resolution in which regret was expressed at the decision to dispense with the services of Mr. F. M. Bailey, Colonial Botanist of Queensland, and urging that he be retained till the completion of his work on Queensland flora, on which he was now engaged. In reply, the society was informed that the Queensland Government had already made arrangements for continuing Mr. Bailey's services for six months from the 1st inst., in order that he might be able to complete the work in question.

## North Great Lake.

Colonel Legge read a letter from Police Trooper Archer, at North Great Lake, stating that they had experienced no very severe frosts during the month of July, and the lakes, with the exception of Pine Lake, which was covered with four or five inches, had been remarkably free from ice. The only birds to be seen on the Great Lake now were the gulls. They appeared to be quite as plentiful as they were in the summer. The grey thrush was there all the winter, but not plentiful; also a few white magpies and wattle-birds. Ground larks were plentiful, and yellow-throated honey-eaters were not scarce. There were also butcher-birds, robins, and emu wrens. He had not noticed the white hawk up there. He had noticed the brown hawk in the spring, flying along the edge of the lake and round the islands, apparently looking for eggs and water fowl. At present, most of the days were bleak and sunless, and the winds unpleasantly cold. During July the minimum temperature was 19deg. on the 30th, and the maximum 40deg. on the 24th; mean temperature for the month, 34deg.

Max. and Min. Temperature at Great Lake, North, during July, 1902:—

Date.	Temperature.	
1902.	Max.	Min.
July 1	43	26
2	41	30
3	43.5	36
4	38	33
5	40	31
6	36	25
7	34	22
8	35	23
9	37.5	29
10	39	30
11	39.5	30
12	38	24
13	34	23
14	37.5	23
15	38	23
16	37	28
17	38	29
18	42	32
19	44	28
20	43	31
21	44	32
22	39	26.5
23	40	28
24	48	28.5
25	38	22.5
26	44	33
27	40	34
28	42.5	35
29	41.5	31.5
30	39	19
31	40	31
Mean for month ... .. 34		

## Governor Denison.

The Secretary read the following letter from Mr. H. E. Smith:—"I have very great pleasure in presenting to the Royal Society of Tasmania a splendid engraving, a full length portrait of the late Sir Wm. Thos. Denison, who was Governor of this colony from January 28, 1847, to January, 8, 1855, as a token of esteem and affection in which he was held by me." Mr. Smith, the secretary said, gave a very interesting account of Sir Wm. Denison, and it was decided that the valuable notes furnished by Mr. Smith should be forwarded to the Historical section of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

## Tasmanian Forestry.

The adjourned discussion on Tasmanian forestry took place.

Colonel Legge made some observations, in the course of which he expressed a desire to see a Forest Conservancy Department created in this State, and expressed his regret at the extent to which "ringing" was indiscriminately practised in Tasmania.

Hobart he was told that typhoid would not live in it, but on reaching Tasmania he found that two children of Bishop Montgomery's had been laid up with it, and that one of them died. He had been in a great many cities on the Continent of Europe, including Cologne, which was famed for its foul and beautiful smells, and he could say that the smells of Hobart were quite as bad as those of Cologne. On one occasion, while going to one of the Hobart churches to preach, he got a smell which remained with him during half the service. Hobart was a long way behind the age in the matter of sanitation. The cobble stones of the channels retained the sewage in their interstices, and if the smells were so bad in the cold weather, what must they be in the hot weather? At Bishopscourt, when he went there, he saw adjacent a lovely creek coming down from the mountain, but he was told that when the summer weather had set in, it would become a filthy sewer. As to the pan system, it was beneath the dignity of a community of 40,000 people like Hobart to have it. He indicted it on the ground of costliness alone. They had the same system at St. Helens, Lancashire, and it cost 2½d. per head per week, but he was told that in Hobart it cost 6d. per week. He cited statistics showing that zymotic disease decreased in cities as the water-carriage system was used. An epidemic of fever in 1900 in South Africa was directly traced to the operations of flies, and at Gorton, where he had come from, a table was kept showing when the flies and the typhoid came and went, and it was seen that the one exactly agreed with the other. No one was safe where the flies were. Hobart was a lovely place, but let them make it more lovely still. The open sewers of

the city were a disgrace to it. It was not a matter of the death-rate but of the typhoid rate. He strongly appealed to the authorities to take action in this matter.

Mr. A. Thorpe, Alderman G. E. Moore, Dr. E. J. Crouch, Mr. Target, and Mr. A. R. Green also took part in the discussion.

Mr. E. H. Wilkinson, Engineer of the Metropolitan Drainage Board, showed a number of lantern views illustrating the sewage works at Sydney, and went on to say that the existing sanitary conditions at Hobart were most unsatisfactory. It was the old tale of impure air and water, owing to defective drainage. The positions of some of the dwelling houses were quite unsuited for human habitations. The configuration of the city told any engineer that the natural outfall for the drainage was Macquarie Point. The tides at Hobart were very regular, and the mean average difference between high and low water was 3ft. 9in. There was nothing sentimental about septic tanks; they were scientific facts. They purified sewage without bacterial beds. It was intended to take the Hobart sewage into very deep water, where it would get the full benefit of the tidal flush.

Some ladies, who were members of the old sanitary society of Hobart were present, and the president invited them to contribute to the discussion, but no response was made. He, however, asked them to continue the useful work which he was told they had done in times gone by.

A vote of thanks was passed to the speakers, and the proceedings then terminated.